

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 09271 311912Z

67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /156 W

----- 127138

R 311733Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1642

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 9271

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VE

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY GOV MAY TAKE SPECTACULAR ACTION TO ASSIST

COPEI'S ELECTORAL CHANCES

1. WITH ONLY FORTY DAYS REMAINING BEFORE THE DECEMBER 9 NATIONAL ELECTIONS, SPECULATION IS RIFE LOCALLY THAT THE CALDERA GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY ANNOUNCE ONE OR MORE DRAMATIC, LAST-MINUTE ACTIONS DESIGNED TO GIVE A FINAL ELECTORAL FILLIP TO COPEI, WHICH IS RUNNING NECK-TO-NECK WITH ACCION DEMOCRATICA IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. THE MORE IMPORTANT SUCH ACTIONS CURRENTLY BEING RUMORED INCLUDE (A) RESUMING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA (B) REVALUING THE BOLIVAR (C) NATIONALIZING ONE OR MORE FOREIGN-OWNED PETROLEUM COMPANIES OR FOREIGN-MANAGED HOTELS (D) DECIDING TO COLLECT ROYALTIES FROM OIL COMPANIES IN PETROLEUM RATHER THAN CASH (E) ANNOUNCING GOV INTENT TO ADVANCE THE DATE OF REVERSION TO VENEZUELA OF THE PROPERTIES OF FOREIGN-OWNED OIL COMPANIES (F) FREEZING ALL PRICES AND RAISING SALARIES (G) ANNOUNCING REPLACEMENT OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE WITH A MORE DYNAMIC STATE ENTITY AND (H) DROPPING OUTSTANDING CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST EX-DICTATOR MARCOS PEREZ JIMENEZ.

2. COMMENT: SINCE ANY SUCH SPECTACULAR ACTIONS THE GOV MAY TAKE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 09271 311912Z

WILL BE DETERMINED BY HOW THE INNER CIRCLES OF THE CALDERA GOVERN-

MENT VIEW COPEI'S CHANCES OF WINNING THE PRESIDENCY, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHAT, IF ANYTHING, ALONG THE ABOVE LINES THE CALDERA GOVERNMENT WILL ACTUALLY DO. MANY LOCAL OBSERVERS FEEL THAT MUCH-DISCUSSED ACTION (A) LACKS VOTER APPEAL AND COULD BACKFIRE IN FAVOR OF ANTI-COMMUNIST HARD-LINER CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, WHILE ACTION (B), ATTRACTIVE AS DEMONSTRATING THE STRENGTH OF VENEZUELA'S ECONOMY, WOULD NEVERTHELESS CREATE SERIOUS ECONOMIC COMPLICATIONS. ACTIONS (C) THROUGH (H) HAVE GREATER VOTER APPEAL, ALTHOUGH ACTION (C) WOULD PROBABLY BE EMPLOYED ONLY AS A LAST RESORT IF COPEI DECIDED IT REQUIRES SOME RADICAL STROKE TO PUSH ITS CANDIDATE OVER THE TOP. ACTION (E) WOULD STRIKE A RESPONSIVE NATIONALISTIC CHORD AND IS NOT PRECLUDED BY ACCION DEMOCRATICA'S PLATFORM, WHEREAS ACTIONS (F) AND (G) RELATE TO THE CAMPAIGN'S GUT ISSUES: THE COST OF LIVING AND UNEMPLOYMENT. ACTION (H) WOULD OF COURSE BE A BID TO GARNER THE MUCH-FRAGMENTED BUT IMPORTANT PEREZJIMENISTA VOTE. ON BALANCE, THEREFORE, ONE OR MORE, OR A COMBINATION OF ACTIONS (B) AND (D) THROUGH (H) WOULD APPEAR THE KINDS OF MEASURES THE GOV COULD LOGICALLY BE EXPECTED TO ADOPT. HOW MANY OF THESE OR STILL OTHER SPECTACULAR ACTIONS THE GOV ACTUALLY TAKES WILL BE A MEASURE OF COPEI'S PERCEPTION OF THE CLOSENESS OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AS IT ENTERS ITS FINAL STAGES.

3. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: HAVING READ THIS ALPHABETICAL ANAGRAM THREE TIMES, I GATHER THAT WE WOULD REGARD RUBE GOLDBERG AS A COPEYANO.
MCCLINTOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES, ELECTION FORECASTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CARACA09271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MCCLINTOCK
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973103/aaaaabvl.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBILITY GOV MAY TAKE SPECTACULAR ACTION TO ASSIST COPEI'S ELECTORAL CHANCES
TAGS: PINT, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005